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# Transcription Notes

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# Transcription Notes

## Appearance

The letters were handwritten on brown or light blue paper with brown ink. The letters have been transcribed as faithfully as possible, but they are not exact facsimile reproductions.

## Spacing

To conserve paper, no space was left between paragraphs or initial words indented. A new thought was indicated by a line at the end of a sentence. Wherever there was a line, a new paragraph was started in the transcription. Another paper saving method was to have multiple family members add to the letter before it was sent. The reader will find a number of addendums at the end of a letter, sometimes dated indicating it was added after the original start date of the letter.

## Spelling and Punctuation

The original spelling and punctuation found in the Butler family letters has been preserved. Many spellings are phonetic, such as emigrance (emigrants), croud (crowd), injoy (enjoy), butiful (beautiful), etc. Meaning can be ascertained from the context. Many misspellings and conventions are familiar to those who have read 19th century correspondence - the use of f before s in words that have a double s, such as grafs (grass) and necefsary (necessary). Sentences run together and do not necessarily end with periods.

## Abbreviations

- Ills and Ille stand for Illinois
- OT stands for Oregon Territory
- The letter dated January 15, 1860 contains 5 overlapping tracings of actual apple sizes. Written within or near each apple is the variety name. No other letter contains drawings.

## Credits

Library personnel who contributed to the history of the digital collection include:

- Kathleen Casey: edited final transcripts of the letters;
- Karen Head: performed original transcriptions of letters and were compared against an earlier typed transcription completed by Mrs. Clares Powell in 1976;
- Lotte Larsen: researched and wrote original biographies.